The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly, free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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801-809 G St. N.W., Washington, D. C

Entered as second-class matter, September 15, 1913, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August, 24, 1912.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 52 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1913 WHOLE NO. 104

COAL MINERS WIN.

Washington, March 29.—President John P. White, of the United Mine Workers of America, has announced that a basis of settlement satisfactory to the coal miners has been reached with the Paint Creek Collieries Company, in West Virginia, where a strike has been in progress for more than ten months. There are nearly 10,000 men on strike in the West Virginia fields, and it is anticipated that settlement is consummated about 4,000 will return to work under the agreement. The strike of the miners against the Cabin Creek Consolidated Coal Mining Company remains in status quo. In the terms agreed upon as a basis for a settlement the main demand of the miners will be granted—that on the right of the coal miners to organize. This, it is said, will carry with it a semi-monthly pay day, check weighmen, and payment for coal on a tonnage basis of 2,000 pounds. The basic strike embraces both Paint and Cabin Creeks. While fewer men have been on strike in the Paint Creek section, the territory covered by the proposed settlement the Cabin Creek coal miners, outnumbering the Paint Creek men two to one, struck in sympathy with the latter. The present strike had its inception April 1, 1912, and it has been a bitter story of military rule and indignities heaped upon the miners, for nearly years the United Mine Workers have fought valiantly to organize the West Virginia coal fields. The settlement announced is predicted to be the precursor of the final achievement of the miners in bringing within the fold the unorganized miners of West Virginia.

SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 29.—The ninth annual Child Labor Conference has adjourned after the most successful meeting ever held in the history of the National Child Labor Committee. Thirty-one States were represented by delegates in the conference. Dr. McKelway, Southern secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, is one of the workers. Of the changed attitude of the Southern delegates, no longer a little inclined to be on the defensive, but are unsparing in their criticism of their own conditions. Leading addresses were made emphasizing the opinion that industry should be compelled to pay for the care of the burden of the disabled workers, of the women widowed by industrial accidents, and of the orphans. The time now receive from industry a wage that will support their families, and hence was made to the lowering of adult wages by the employment of children, and an illuminating discussion along these lines brought out many interesting facts on the effect of child labor upon industry as a whole.

FINED AND FORCED TO PAY.

Bellingham, March 29.—Recently an employe of one of the mill companies voluntarily quit his employment and asked for his pay. He was tendered a memorandum of his time and told he would have to wait ten days, or until the regular pay day of the company. This action was clearly in defiance of the law, and the Prosecuting Attorney was informed of the violation. The attorney informed the mill company, and the latter refused to settle immediately following, the Prosecuting Attorney commenced action against the company, and the company was forced to cash the check and also fined $50 for violation of the statute.

PLANS CUT IN RATES.

Washington, March 29.—The lowering of the parcel post rates is indicated by the action of the Postoffice Department in calling for data on traffic and receipts from all towns where the postal business is above $7,500 a year. It is rumored that the Postmaster General may reduce rates providing it meets with the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission. This will be "little more than a formality," for if the Postmaster General recommends a cut in the rates no objection will be offered by the commission. Economy methods that are shorthaul business the rate can be greatly lowered and the revenues largely increased thereby.

PERSISTENT RUMORS.

Washington, March 29.—Rumors of a persistent nature have been circulating for some time past to the effect that some sort of a settlement was being considered by the Illinois Central and Harriman systems, which has been on approximately two years and has been bitterly fought by the shop trades and the two roads involved. It is known that overtures have been made, but nothing has so far been reported in light of anything that indicates any definite plan having yet been evolved to close up this situation.

ANOTHER LABOR TEMPLE.

Worcester, Mass., March 28.—The local union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters of South Framingham contemplates erecting a handsome $40,000 building lot, 60 by 120 feet, has been donated to the Carpenters' Union as a nucleus for the building fund. Much interest is being displayed and active efforts have been begun to raise money with which to construct a building.

GREETS NEW SECRETARY.

Olympia, Wash., March 28.—Upon the appointment by President Wilson of Hon. W. B. Wilson as Secretary of the Department of Labor, the State Senate of the Legislature, now in session, tendered congratulations as follows: "The Senate of the State of Washington tenders you congratulations as a fellow citizen upon of the nation's newest Cabinet position." The State Federation also, through its officials, sent a similar telegram.

PROPOSED LABOR TEMPLE.

St. Paul, March 29.—The Building Trades Council of this city is interesting itself in plans looking to the erection of a labor temple. A committee has been at work looking into the details, and the committee recently increased, with instructions to bring in a preliminary report at an early date.

ACCIDENTS REDUCED.

Lansing, Mich., March 29.—Since the workmen's compensation and employers' liability act went into effect, on a little more than six months ago, the average number of fatal accidents to employes of persons, firms, partnerships, and corporations in Michigan has decreased from two a day to three every two days. This means a decrease of 25 per cent. The average number of nonfatal accidents of the same class of employes has decreased from 1,000 a day to 65. These figures are furnished by the State Industrial Board, and are based on the fatalities and nonfatal accidents occurring to the employes of more than 7,000 employers of labor, from the largest railroad, manufacturing, and mining concerns down to the small shops where the pay roll does not exceed a few hundred dollars weekly. The board has made a canvass of all the Lansing factories and other employers who have come under this act, and find that they have spent $15,000 for accident prevention devices on machinery since last September.

A SPLENDID REPORT.

Sacramento, Cal., March 28.—In the fifteenth biennial report of the State Bureau of Labor statistics, just published, it is stated that the bureau has accomplished more good during the last two years than ever in its history. The bureau has brought all employment agencies under control. Those operating applicants for work from being subjected to exorbitant rates. Fraudulent employing agencies also have been brought under control, and one of the most vicious practices has been wiped out—that of the contentions of the Labor Bureau. It is asserted that child labor is under the strictest control. It is also stated that during the year ended January 20, 1912, attendance at the public schools of the State increased 25,000. Since the bureau undertook enforcement of the laws regulating temporary floors in buildings under construction the number of accidents caused by falls in the ranks of the structural iron workers alone has been reduced 75 per cent. Legislation also is urged to curb the activities of shipping contractors in the employment of 5,000 men in San Francisco each season and ship them North to work in the Alaskan salmon canning factories. Instances are given where sailors who sign articles are mulcted of practically all their wages, and in many cases are never paid anything.

TEACHERS WANT MORE.

Bellingham, Wash., March 28.—Having for its object the securing of better salaries, a concerted movement has been started among the grade and high school teachers of the city. At present now receive from industry a wage that will support their families, or until a change was made to the lowering of adult wages by the employment of children, and an illuminating discussion along these lines brought out many interesting facts on the effect of child labor upon industry as a whole.

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RATHER AMUSING.

Manchester, England, March 28.—While the Independent Labor party was holding its convention there recently the suffragettes placed padlocks upon the doors of the hall. When the delegates attempted to leave they found themselves prisoners. The police were notified by telephone. One enraged delegate climbed on the roof and paid his compliments to the suffragettes movement in picturesque language. The suffragettes had placed chairs across the doors and hammers and chisels had to be brought into play before the doors could be opened. Upon reconvening the delegates with the greatest physical prowess were designated as guards about the building to prevent a recurrence of their former confinement.

AGAINST LEASING CONVICTS.

Tampa, Fla., March 28.—In a recent issue of the Tampa Tribune the following excerpts are taken, referring to the convict lease system in operation in that State: "The public sentiment of the State appears to be practically unanimously in favor of abolishing the contract system. We have just inaugurated a Governor who declares against the system in his inaugural address, and who may be expected to do everything in his power to have the lawmakers wipe out this blot upon Florida's fair name. A writer in a current magazine shows that the leasing of convicts to work for private contracts not only means a greater percentage of other workers, but causes barbarous treatment of the prisoners. The Governor of a Southern State was telling an English visitor of the workings of the lease system in his State. 'Every convict we have pays a profit of $20 a year over and above all expenses.' 'Then,' said the Englishman, 'if the more prisoners you have the greater the profits why not put all your population in prison if you can?' Such is the prison contract scheme?" The Governor of Arkansas, failing to obtain the repeal of the convict lease law and becoming convinced of the ill-treatment of prisoners by the lessees, pardoned 260 convicts at one time. It was a drastic measure, but it did the work. The lease system makes more criminals than it cures. It opposes the interest of both the prisoner and society. Florida must abolish it."

UPHOLDS MARTIAL LAW.

Charleston, W. Va., March 29.—In an opinion recently filed in Lewis and Wise the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals the right of the Governor to declare martial law and suspend the military commission is affirmed. This opinion was rendered in the case of Brother Jones and others against Gov. Hatfield and the members of the military commission, asking for a writ of prohibition to compel the Governor and military authorities to permit the controversy now in the courts to be settled. Under the petitioners denied the right of the Governor and military commission to try persons apprehended outside the military zone of the Kanawha County coal fields. The Governor recently caused the release of numerous persons lying in the military authorities in connection with the strike. These were charged with four different causes. The Governor also announced that martial law would be continued in the coal fields indefinitely.

MACHINISTS GROWING RAPIDLY.

Washington, March 29.—The officials of the International Association of Machinists in session during the months of February and March local unions were formed at Ashtabula, Ohio; Kingston, Pa.; Watertown, Mass.; Cleveland, Ohio; Heavener, Okla.; Gasoway, W. Va.; Three Rivers, Mich.; Chicopee Falls, Mass., and Keokuk, Iowa. In addition to these organizations of machinists, the following local unions, composed exclusively of machinists' helpers, also were organized: St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada; Jermyn, Pa.; Boston, Mass.; Oneonta, N. Y.; Mayfield, Pa.; Marvin, Pa.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Clinton, Iowa; Norwith, N. Y.; Hoisington, Kans., and Bellevue, Ohio. During the month charters issued during the two months under consideration.

GRANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Holyoke, Mass., March 28.—An impending strike of the papermakers in the mills of the Smith Paper Company at Mass., has been averted. An agreement has been entered into whereby all five mills of the company are to start the eight-hour system on or before August 1, and all employes retain their membership in the union. The organization at Lee has about 65 per cent of the skilled employes enrolled as members. The mills following local unions, composed exclusively of machinists' helpers, also were organized: St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada; Jermyn, Pa.; Boston, Mass.; Oneonta, N. Y.; Mayfield, Pa.; Marvin, Pa.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Clinton, Iowa; Norwith, N. Y.; Hoisington, Kans., and Bellevue, Ohio. During the month charters issued during the two months under consideration.

ADOPT AMERICAN PLAN.

Washington, March 28.—The Belgian government has notified the Secretary of State that its officials have approved the plan of Director Holmes, of the Bureau of Mines, which provide for the organization of a permanent International Mining Congress, to meet every years with a view to making the work of mines safer.

BOXMAKERS GROWING.

Philadelphia, March 28.—More than 1,500 boxmakers are now enrolled in a local union, and that number is being constantly increased. Members of the Boxmakers' Union are employed in every boxmaking shop in Philadelphia, twenty-five in all. The union is also actively engaged in a campaign to have union labels placed on every box made in the city.

JACKSONVILLE NEWS.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 29.—Organizer William E. Terry, of the American Federation of Labor, and Organizer Joseph Shopmen's Helpers Union, after the adjustment of a grievance which the members of the Jacksonville Electric Company engaged in a campaign to have union labels placed on every box made in the city.

NEWS WRITERS WIN.

New York, March 28.—The strike of the news writers, which has been on for nearly two weeks, came to an end, a settlement having been arrived at. The strike was confined to the Hearst newspapers.

GIVES REST PERIOD.

Duluth, Minn., March 28.—The F. A. Patrick factor, has voluntarily granted to its employes a fifteen-minute rest period every morning and afternoon. During these periods every room in the factory is opened and thoroughly ventilated. This is the first innovation of this kind in Duluth. "We shall probably continue the plan when we get into our new factory building, where conditions will be made as fine for the employes as they can possibly be made," asserts the management.

GRANITE CUTTER GAINS.

Washington, March 29.—James Duncan, international president of the Granite Cutters' Association, reports the following successful trade movements. The Bangor, Me., branch of the Granite Cutters' Association secured a new agreement, with an increase in wages from $2.25 to $3.00 per day. They were on strike two weeks. The employers signed the new scale. At Taunton, Mass., the Granite Cutters were successful in securing a new agreement with an increase in wages from $2.25 to $2.52 minimum per day. They suspended work a half day when the employers signed the new scale. At Iberville, Province of Quebec, the local branch was successful in securing a new wage scale, which provided with it an increase from 40 cents to 43 cents per hour minimum to March 1, 1915, with a forty-four-hour week, and 50 cents per hour minimum after March 1, 1916, with a forty-four-hour week. The branch at Fort St. Vernon, British Columbia, has given notice to the employers of a proposed increase in wages from $4 to $5 per day. It is expected that the new wage scale will be signed without friction or suspension of work.

SEEKING MORE WORK.

Washington, March 28.—The Navy Department has made a strong appeal to other branches of the government service which make use of vessels to utilize the naval dry docks and navy yards in repair work. It is pointed out that the fluctuation of the amount and continuity of purely naval work in such yards and docking stations is greater than should exist, with due regard to economy, yet these facilities should be kept in condition for immediate service in case of emergency. Further, it is argued that the difference between the cost of repair of private shipyards, due to the differences in length of hours constituting a day's work, is small as compared with the total, and in the near future private shipyards must come to the assistance of the navy yards. The suggestion is made that government ships is done at actual cost, and there are now thirteen vessels belonging to other departments in the navy yards, and half a dozen new water crafts are being constructed.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

Washington, March 29.—The Supreme Court of the United States held, in the case of Michigan Central Railroad Company against Vreeland, that section 1 under the Federal employers' liability act of 1908 against an interstate carrier for injuries suffered by an employe in the service of such carrier, the employe was not limited to cases where death was instantaneous, but the fifty-year of action thus created in favor of certain relatives was independent of any cause of action which the employe had, and included no damages which he might have recovered for his injury had he survived, that in an action for the benefit of a widow of such an employe, the measure of damages was the financial benefit which she might reasonably have expected from her husband in a pecuniary way, and that it was error to instruct the jury to estimate from their own experience as men the value of a widow's loss of her husband's "care and advice."

NEEDS EXTENSION.

Washington, March 29.—The arbitration board of three, which is considering the dispute between the fifty-four railroads and their firemen in New York City, undoubtedly will ask for an extension of time allowed by law for them to reach a decision. The law gives the committee thirty days in which to reach a decision. This will not make a report of its findings. It was appointed March 8, but did not start its work until March 10, because of the time needed to get in working order. It is not apprehended that any difficulty will be placed in the way of securing additional time, and in all probability it will be mutually agreed to.

PASS WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.

Bismarck, N. Dak., March 28.—The Legislature of this State has passed the woman's suffrage bill, and it will now be submitted to the people for their approval or disapproval. In the upper House of the State Legislature the woman's suffrage amendment by a vote of 31 to 15, but refused to recede from a conference committee report, and upon suffrage two years hence. The amendment has passed the House, and will again come before the Senate before being submitted to the popular vote.

AFTER PRESS ASSOCIATIONS.

Washington, March 29.—Congressman Lafferty of Oregon has introduced in the House and introduced a bill in the committee on interstate commerce act. He declared that he would frame his bill so as to compel press associations to furnish the press service on equal terms to any number of applicants in a locality.

A LARGE GROWTH.

Philadelphia, March 28.—With the extraordinary growth within the recent past of their organization, the local unions of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance, which now numbers more than 2,000, is still gaining and making tremendous strides in all parts of the country. The organization is involved in some small strikes, but they are well in hand, and prospects are good for a successful outcome.

BOSTON DRESSMAKERS STRIKE.

Boston, March 28.—Nine hundred men and women, members of the Boston Dressmakers' Union, are on strike. They demand better conditions with an increase in pay and suitable arrangements for overtime.

THE UNION SHOP.

San Francisco, March 28.—The business agent of the United Laborers' Union made the following report at the last meeting of that organization: "Every laborer now employed on the Panama-Pacific Exposition grounds is a member in good standing in the United Laborers' Union, and is carrying the quarterly working card of the Building Trades Council and display-ing the union button. Furthermore, we have assurances of the board of directors of the Panama-Pacific Exposition that in the future only union laborers will be permitted to work on the grounds."

GETTING STRIKE-BREAKERS.

Erie, Pa., March 28.—The managers of iron foundries, whose workmen are on strike, are advertising in papers throughout the country for men. A sample of the advertisements is one which appeared in the New York Journal recently, and reads as follows: "Men Wanted for Erie. Good chance for young men to learn trade as molder or coremaker; $3 per day. Only experienced molders men wanted. Free transportation. No strike. Rushed with orders. Steady employment guaranteed. Apply Employment Bureau, 115 West Street, New York." According to the Erie Herald a man who applied for a position he was informed emphatically three or four times present and that if they did not they would be arrested. The employing molders of this city are in desperate straits and are expending a large amount of money in an effort to break the spirit of the molders, but the strikers are determined to stand by their rightful demands until such time as the employers consider their right to organize and have a part in determining the wages paid, the hours and conditions of labor.

OPPOSE HEAD OF BUREAU.

Washington, March 28.—The members of the Plate Printers' Union are urging the appointment of an actual plate printer to succeed the present director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The relations between the present director, Joseph E. Ralph, and the Plate Printers' Union have been strained for a long time. Congressman Lafferty recently introduced a bill in the House providing that hereafter the director shall be a practical plate printer, and the Plate Printers' Union is supporting this measure. There is considerable feeling against the changes in the methods employed by Director Ralph, chief of which has been the installation of machinery to do work which the machines are not considered to be a success, to that extent the surveyed plate printing and washing process it loses its luster and become faded and therefore more unsatisfactory. It is reported than bills that have not been washed.

SEEKING LIVING COST.

La Crosse, Wis., March 29.—In order to furnish a basis for the demand for an increase of more than twenty of the thirty-three labor unions in this city whose committees have been in session for weeks seeking advances in wages, owing to the increased cost of living, the Trades and Labor Council has sent out a circular to every union man in La Crosse. These circulars inquire in detail as to the cost of the various necessities of life, including practically every item which is necessary in the rearing of a family and the maintenance of the household. At the same time an investigation is being instituted among the retailers of this city and a canvass of the prevailing prices of various commodities with the quotations of a year and three years ago, is being made. Most of the unions contemplate submitting new scales, but are awaiting the result of the investigation in order to determine what amount of increases they will be justified in asking.

PROVIDING LECTURERS.

Portland, Oreg., March 29.—The faculty of the State University has notified the labor unions of this city that it is prepared to furnish lecturers on industrial subjects to address men engaged in actual work. The Union of Steam Engineers is the first to take advantage of the offer, and a meeting was held for the purpose of listening to a lecture on the law. The lecturer was an authority on many of the problems of the engineering. The dissemination of knowledge by the State University in this manner is to be commended.

SHINGLE WEAVERS.

Seattle, Wash., March 28.—The organizing of the timber workers is progressing satisfactorily. All the local unions are active in securing the signing of agreements. Two new charters have been issued, one at Aberdeen, Wash., and the other at Coos Bay, Ore. The International Union is receiving more requests for organizers than it is possible to supply.

NAVY YARD CONGESTED.

Washington, March 29.—Congestion in the workshops of the Washington Navy Yard and inadequate conditions for the delivery of material is the report given out following an inspection of the plant. It is stated that Rear Admiral Capps will recommend in the next naval appropriation bill that the overcrowded conditions in the Washington yard be enlarged.

SUSTAINS SHORTER HOURS.

Washington, March 29.—The Supreme Court of Illinois, in the case of Ritchie against Wieding, that limiting the hours of labor of women in hotels to ten per day, while placing no limitation upon them in boarding houses and other like places, was not an unconstitutional discrimination, and that the business of the hotel business furnished a proper ground for classification.

NEW CONGRESSMAN WEDS.

San Francisco, March 29.—John I. Nolan, former secretary of the Labor Council, who was elected last fall as a member of Congress, was married to Miss Ruth and left for Washington the following day to assume his duties in the extraordinary session of the Congress, which convene on April 7.

WAGE LAW SUSTAINED.

Seattle, Wash., March 28.—Men employed by contractors on municipal work, no matter in what capacity, come under the scope of the minimum wage scale of $2.75 a day for eight hours' work, as provided in the city charter, is the gist of an opinion rendered recently to the board of public works by the corporation counsel, who says: "Complaint comes to me that men employed as teamsters by mixers of materials in paving contracts are not paid the wage scale provided by the charter. It cannot conceive of any valid reason why the purpose and spirit of the charter provision is not broad enough to reach and cover these men. It is primary law that the reason or purpose of such an amendment should be placed in view when considering it and that such construction should be placed upon it as to destroy the mischief or evil at which it is aimed, and to advance a remedy therefor."

BIG JOB FOR UNION LABOR.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 29.—According to the Cedar Rapids Tribune, the local labor paper, the Building Trades Council, through a committee, has secured a contract with the American Cereal Company, which provides for the employment of union workmen exclusively on the erection of buildings which are to cost $800,000. This result was brought about by the presentation to the City Council of the plans now in vogue in this city. As the result of the conference a delegation composed of seven of the leading labor unions proceeded to Chicago for the purpose of laying the proposition before the president of the company living the work in contemplation. The president of the company accepted the plans proposed by the union men, stating that union shop provisions would be incorporated in the contract with the builders. The union men are highly elated over the success in securing an agreement for this large amount of work.

MOLDERS SECURE INCREASE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 29.—On November 1, 1912, the Molders' Union of this city secured a demand for an increase in the minimum wage of both Molders and Coremakers. The increase was to take effect on December 1, but the foundry men brought fort., an old agreement which the Molders' Union had considered void and certain changes and agreed had been made during the life of the agreement. This matter was subsequently adjusted and the foundrymen granted the Molders' Union its request, and the $2.35 minimum wage for a nine hour day went into effect on March 1.

FORWARD FOR IRON CITY.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 29.—Arrangements are being made by the central body to conduct a vigorous organizing campaign in this district during April. A conference was recently held at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, in Washington relative to the advisability of opening up a campaign in this city. They have been in existence for years and also form new organizations. The A. F. of L. has requested international unions, wherever possible, to direct some of their organizers to assist in the work. The officials of local unions and building trades are not only interested, but enthusiastic over the outlook.

UPHOLDS INITIATIVE LAW.

Denver, March 29.—The State Supreme Court has upheld the initiative and referendum laws. The court held that the people have power to initiate an act repealing any law that has been referred. A tangle in legislation is apparent at this time, owing to the fact that two eight-hour laws, one initiated by the people and one by the working people, were both adopted. The Supreme decision in the case mentioned declared that the legislature had the right to pass a new eight-hour law, and that the two laws passed by the people last fall. The court declared that the will of the people is supreme and that a law passed by the legislature could be repealed under the initiative and referendum.

POTTERY GIRLS WIN.

East Liverpool, Ohio, March 28.—Nearly 200 employes of the Electrical Porcelain Factories have returned to work, after a short strike, at an increase of 20 cents a day and the abrogation of the silence rule, which did not permit talking during working hours. The girls from the general ware potteries of East Liverpool, Wellsville, Newell and Chester have had been on strike pursuant to a demand for a 50 per cent increase, have also returned to work, accepting a compromise offer of 10 per cent increase from the operators of the company, granting a 25 per cent increase pending an arbitration of the balance of the demands.

STEAMFITTERS COME OVER.

Washington, March 28.—After months of negotiations between the United Association of Plumbers, Gas Fitters, and International Steamfitters, arrangements have been made whereby the local union of steamfitters will be taken over in order to become a part of the United Association of Plumbers. The new charter was granted by President Alpine of the United Association, conducted these successful negotiations.

TO VOTE ON RECALL.

Lansing, Mich., March 29.—The opportunity to decide whether the initiative, referendum, and recall provisions shall be incorporated in the constitution of Michigan will be placed before the people at the coming spring election. The Legislature having passed a resolution submitting the recall.

TO VOTE ON PENSION.

Lansing, Mich., March 29.—The Legislature has passed the Scott concurrent resolution submitting to the people a proposed amendment to the constitution authorizing the Legislature to establish firmer's pensions. The vote will be voted on at the coming spring election.

GET AGREEMENT.

Chicago, March 29.—The Norcross company, employing stone contractors, has entered into an agreement with the Stone Cutters' International Unless to employ only members of that organization. In this city along the company in question has the contract for the Field Museum, over 200 stone cutters being employed upon this job, which will require two or three years to complete. The agreement covers the work done by the company in Cleveland, Ohio; Tate, Ga., and Chicago, Ill. This contract to employ only stone cutters who are members of the American Federation of Labor is a far-reaching one, in that the company, under the agreement, must discharge a large number of men whom are placed in view when considering it and that such construction should be placed upon it as to destroy the mischief or evil at which it is aimed, and to advance a remedy therefor."

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, March 29.—The following is a partial list of recent railroad wrecks: Nine persons, all passengers, but one, were injured when an express special train bound for New York from Washington on the Pennsylvania Railroad, crashed into the rear of a passenger train bound from Baltimore to Washington. Eight persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a wreck on the Cleveland Terminal Valley passenger train turned over near Magnolia Station, fifteen miles south of Canton, Ohio. The road is a branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad system. Three trainmen were seriously injured when two engines attached to a north-bound Illinois Central passenger, were derailed and overturned in the Memphis, Tenn., railroad yards. Two trains on the Kanawha and Michigan collided headon at Kanagna Junction, four miles west of Columbus, Ohio. Eighteen persons being injured, but none of them seriously. Both locomotives and several cars were demolished. Thirteen persons were injured when a freight train which was racing for a siding collided headon with a passenger train on the Piedmont branch of the Erie Railroad, near Monsey, N. Y.

MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Indianapolis, March 29.—All of the machinists employed at the Diamond Chain Works struck recently. They were joined by the punch press operators and the punching machines. The difficulty arose over the refusal of the firm to enter into negotiations looking to a new agreement which carried with it a 5-cent increase in the minimum wage scale. The firm refused to accede to this slight raise and announced that it was its purpose to install a system whereby all grievances of the employes would be dealt with as individuals. There are many girls employed in the plant, but they have already formed and also form new organizations. The A. F. of L. has requested international unions, wherever possible, to direct some of their organizers to assist in the work. The officials of local unions and building trades are not only interested, but enthusiastic over the outlook.

FORWARD FOR IRON CITY.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 29.—Arrangements are being made by the central body to conduct a vigorous organizing campaign in this district during April. A conference was recently held at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, in Washington relative to the advisability of opening up a campaign in this city. They have been in existence for years and also form new organizations. The A. F. of L. has requested international unions, wherever possible, to direct some of their organizers to assist in the work. The officials of local unions and building trades are not only interested, but enthusiastic over the outlook.

UPHOLDS INITIATIVE LAW.

Denver, March 29.—The State Supreme Court has upheld the initiative and referendum laws. The court held that the people have power to initiate an act repealing any law that has been referred. A tangle in legislation is apparent at this time, owing to the fact that two eight-hour laws, one initiated by the people and one by the working people, were both adopted. The Supreme decision in the case mentioned declared that the legislature had the right to pass a new eight-hour law, and that the two laws passed by the people last fall. The court declared that the will of the people is supreme and that a law passed by the legislature could be repealed under the initiative and referendum.

NEGOTIATING NEW SCALE.

Springfield, Ill., March 28.—The Brickmakers' Union, which was organized here about a year ago, has entered into a new and substantial organization. The new wage scale and agreement, which has just been completed, provides for a slight increase in wages, with an eight-hour day. The agreement with the manufacturers of sand brick turned out in the various yards. While definite arrangements have not been announced, the scale of agreement into effect, it is not believed that there is probability of any serious friction in putting it into force.

STILL INCREASING REVENUE.

Washington, March 29.—The January gross earnings of the Northern Pacific show an estimated increase of 8 per cent. The company's trade load in the first half of the fiscal year averaged 638 tons per train mile, 1912, 592 tons; for 1911-12, 602 tons for 1910-11, and 554 tons for 1909-10, an increase of 84 tons or 15.22 per cent over the period. This is grinding out profits with a vengeance.

CARRIAGE WORKERS GROWING.

Buffalo, March 29.—Secretary-treasurer Thomas Cosgrove, of the Carriage, Wagon, and Automobile Workers' International Union, stated since this city that he believed that organizing various in the automobile industry has reached a point where it will be possible to hold a national convention in this city in the near future. The organization has instituted four new locals—two at Middletown, Ohio; Louisville, Tenn., one at Victoria, British Columbia, and one at Ottawa, Ontario.

MINIMUM WAGE ADOPTED.

Chicago, March 29.—It is reported that the International Harvester Company has adopted a minimum wage for women on its own account. The minimum wage is to be under the minimum wage will be $9 per week. It is said that the increase affects the company will be $10,000 annually.

GRANTS WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Juneau, Alaska, March 29.—The Legislature of Alaska has granted woman suffrage by a vote of 16 to 4. This is the first bill passed by the Legislature, and it will be signed by the Governor, either House. The bill exempts women from jury duty.